

which he is investigating, it seems to me that with all such deductions there remains a large contribution to our knowledge of the physics of the globe ~~but~~ which cannot but influence all the efforts whether of geologists or of naturalists to reconstruct the past history of our planet. If anything important bearing on these questions should appear in the scientific transactions or periodicals in the United States I shall be very thankful for a reference (on a post-card) which would enable me to make myself acquainted with it.

Pray give my own & my wife's very kind remembrances to Mrs Gray & believe me always sincerely yours

John Ball

P.S. I came to Italy for my wife's health now quite satisfactory & we are about starting homewards

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10 Southwell Gardens
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Rapallo Riviera di Genova
27 Nov 1882

My dear Dr Gray - It is long since I have heard of you or Mrs Gray but that is owing to the fact that I have been so to say out of the way since early in the present year - I have had the good fortune to be able at least partially to accomplish one of the dreams of my youth by making the tour of South America - The time was indeed too short - only five months of which more than half was passed at sea - the season unfavorable for botany in Chili, Magellan Strait & the Plate region - and finally my own ignorance as to a great portion of the tropical flora stood in my way - but with all these drawbacks I had a most delightful & suggestive excursion and saw nearly as much as was possible in the time - In spite of the war I had four delightful days in the Cordillera of Peru - In Chili in late autumn the snow had fallen - rather low but I saw a good deal of two fine valleys - those of the Cachapoal & of

Aconcagua - I had a most interesting voyage of five days through the channels of Western Patagonia leading into the straits of Magellan & passed five days at Sandy Point in the straits - and my tour was concluded by a glorious vision of Brazil where I passed ten days in that earthly Paradise Petropolis besides glimpses of some other points - It was the accident of the departure of a friend for Lima that induced my wife to consent to my departure - I am now not without the hope of persuading her to cross the Atlantic with me in 1884, the proposed meeting of the British Association in Canada providing a pretext if not a reason - But I should think a visit to N. America miserably incomplete if I were not able to see something of the Rocky Mountains & of the Pacific region - and for this I think that my wife is scarcely fitted.

Though you may not have thought so when you saw her in London

her health is not strong and she easily breaks down under fatigue and the vicissitudes as to food & the like to which travellers are liable -

I do not yet know what time is fixed or is likely to be fixed for the meeting of the British Association but I suppose it will not be so early as not to leave time for a tour in the far west before the meeting, supposing that I am able to arrange matters for that end.

I suppose that you have been reading the volume on Climate and Time by Croll.

It is true that most of the substance has already appeared scattered through numerous memoirs & papers but there is a great advantage in having his views brought together & arranged in something like order & sequence - Whatever one may think of it it is a book deserving most careful consideration and for my own part although I find not a few conclusions that appear to me disputable and a general tendency to overrate the action of the causes